

Rights Conference was the release of all political prisoners. While Soviet authorities have raised questions in connection with many of these cases, we as members of the Helsinki Commission have argued that the burden of proof is on the Soviets to prove the individuals in question are criminals. We have initiated or recommended the following action on behalf of remaining prisoners, including those in Perm 35:

(1) We have publicly called on the Soviets to release all those in Perm 35 convicted for nonviolent acts. We believe that in view of the excessive and cruel punishment these prisoners have suffered, a positive Soviet response would signal a truly humanitarian gesture.

(2) We have written Secretary of State James Baker to urge him to continue the practice of raising individual cases at the highest levels in U.S.-Soviet dialogue.

(3) We have discussed Soviet reforms and the status of prisoners with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, urging that human rights remain a top priority in U.S.-Soviet relations. While Soviet human rights improvements have occurred, we should continue identifying problems that persist and pressing our concerns while the Soviets seem willing to discuss and respond to them.

(4) We have urged human rights groups to advocate the immediate release of political prisoners.

(5) We urge concerned Westerners to reinvigorate campaigns on behalf of these prisoners, including letter-writing to Soviet officials, camp authorities and to the prisoners themselves.

Advancing glasnost to the gulag

The Soviets should begin a process of opening up prisons and labor camps to interested individuals and human rights groups. Only by following our inspection visit by permitting further visits will the Soviets make progress in erasing the Stalinist stigma of the gulag.

(1) We have urged Westerners and human rights organizations to request to visit prisons and labor camps and meet with prisoners in order to report on conditions.

(2) We have urged members of the media, particularly the Moscow press corps, to make visits and report on prisons and labor camps. Since our visit, a few members of the media have been granted access to camps.

(3) We have helped to secure official Soviet approval for the visit of Bureau of Prisons Director, Michael Quinlin, and Prison Fellowship International chairman, Charles Colson, to visit several prisons and labor camps in the USSR and discuss reforms and ways to reduced crime and recidivism in that country.

(4) We have urged that Western Leaders and human rights groups advocate on behalf of Soviet citizens who wish to visit prisons and labor camps, including clergy to perform rites or offer pastoral counsel.

(5) We have raised these concerns in congressional hearings, and support Helsinki Commission hearing to focus on conditions in the Soviet gulag.

Reforms

(1) We have shared our findings on the progress of legal reforms—including "freedom on conscience," freedom of emigration, and criminal code revisions—with prominent non-government organizations and urge their continued vigilance in encouraging further institutionalization of basic freedoms and that such laws be consistent with international law and with CSCE commitments.

(2) We have raised concerns about Soviet legal reforms in recent hearings sponsored by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and, in the past, in CSCE hearings.

(3) We have expressed our support to Soviet and American officials for programs developed in a human rights framework to promote Soviet Progress on "rule of law" issues and in other areas where U.S. expertise is helpful and welcomed by the Soviets.

PRISONERS MET AT PERM 35

Following is the list of prisoners (not all of them are necessarily political prisoners) who spoke with Reps. Wolf and Smith at Perm Labor Camp 35 in August 1989. For more information on these prisoners and their cases, please contact Helsinki Commission (U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, House Annex 2, Room 237, Washington, DC 20515).

Mailing address for prisoners (Moscow post office box): SSSR, RSFSR, S. Moskva uchr. 5110/VS, Last name, First initial.

Aleksandr Goldovich, Ruslan Ketenchiyev, Bogdan Klimchak, Lenoid Lubman, Viktor Makarov, Nikolay Nukradze, Aleksandr Rasskazov, Mikhailov Kazachkov, Valery Smirnov, Oleg Mikhaylov, and Igor Mogil'nikov.

Yuriy Pavlov, Aleksandr Udachin, Arnold Anderson, Maksim Ivanov, Vyacheslav Cherepanov, Vadim Arenberg, Vladimir Potashov, Akhmet Kolpakbayev, Anatoliy Filatov, Igor Fedotkin, Vladimir Tishchenkov, Viktor Olinsnevich, and Unidentified Central Asian.

Acknowledgment: We wish to thank Richard Stephenson, Soviet Desk Officer at the State Department, who accompanied us on the trip to Perm 35, providing translation and other assistance.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA) at 2 p.m.

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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, the author of life and truth, be in our hearts this day with a message of faith and hope and love. May our faith be strong enough to stand against the schemes of evil that seek to turn people against one another; may our hope allow us to see a better and brighter day and honor the possibilities of the human experience; and may our love bind us together in such a way that we encourage one another, bear each other's burdens, and honor together all the gifts that You have so freely given to us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UPTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, when the Justice Department is accused of a crime, the Justice Department investigates the Justice Department. Think about it. Eighty Americans were killed at Waco Texas; the Justice Department investigated themselves. Eighteen of those killed at Waco were children, literally burned to death. The Justice Department investigated themselves. Unbelievable. Peers investigating peers; buddies investigating buddies. Who is kidding whom, Madam Speaker?

If the Justice Department was not guilty at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, when Vickie Weaver was shot right between the eyes, why did the Justice Department pay Randy Weaver \$5 million?

Beam me up. Congress should cosponsor H.R. 2201.

Madam Speaker, I yield back all the exonerating investigations, self-investigations, at the Justice Department.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 11, 2000 at 11:30 a.m. That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 244.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.